

COVID-19 and related topics 02

EPP0150

Motivation of medical employees in the context of the COVID pandemic

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doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2023.484

Introduction: The Covid-19 pandemic has restructured the entire health care system. As systems of care were overwhelmed, many health professionals in related professional areas became increasingly involved in providing medical aid. We highlight a comparative analysis between two psychiatric wards of the same hospital, with qualified medical staff, with similar levels of competence, one of the wards caring for patients exclusively with major psychiatric pathologies, and the other patients with associated SARS-COV2 infection.

Objectives: Considering that motivation at work depends on a multitude of factors, in our case, stress related to contamination, situational anxiety generated by psychiatric patients who are partially inside on COVID infection, can decrease the motivation to perform a quality psychiatric medical act. Resilience and organizational civic behavior are instead variables with the role of maintaining professional motivation at an optimal level and enhancing dedication.

Methods: We applied questionnaires aimed at motivation at work in relation to the dependent variables: stress, anxiety, resilience and civic organizational behavior in two different departments of the psychiatric hospital, a ward where patients were admitted positively confirmed COVID 19, versus a ward with non-COVID psychiatric patients.

Results: Psychiatric medical staff are trained to treat predominantly psychomotor agitation, violent behavioral syndromes, suicide attempts, psychotic illnesses. 95% of the employees of the COVID support department stated that they prefer to take care of 10 agitated patients, than one patient with COVID. The stress came in most cases from: insufficient support equipment, insufficient doctor to coordinate nurses, lack of experience with somatic patients, fear of contamination generated by non-compliance with protective measures by psychiatric patients.

Conclusions: Resilience and civic organizational behavior kept staff motivation at an optimal level, but lower than would have been appropriate. Also, motivation at work was lower compared to the non-COVID psychiatric ward.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP0151

The Impact of COVID-19 on Forensic Rehabilitation in Austria

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doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2023.485

Introduction: In general, forensic psychiatric patients experience major restrictions of freedom. To mitigate the risk for the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), even more restrictions were implemented in Austrian mental health institutions in 2020. Besides potential deterioration of psychopathological symptoms, exaggerated freedom-restricting measures may limit the forensic rehabilitation of offenders.

Objectives: Given that rehabilitative efforts and social visits were suspended for more than a year, this study aimed to evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the psychosocial rehabilitation of forensic psychiatric patients.

Methods: This retrospective longitudinal observational study evaluated institutional data before and after the enactment of freedom-restricting measures in an Austrian forensic mental health institution. Data were obtained from 97 offenders treated at the institution *Justizanstalt Göllersdorf* during two time periods (January 2019 – March 2020 and March 2020 – May 2021). Statistical differences between both periods were assessed by means of Wilcoxon signed-rank tests. Study outcomes included the number of visits by relatives and legal guardians as well as rehabilitative activities.

Results: After the outbreak of the pandemic, access to penal institutions was limited for external visitors, which led to a decrease in visits by relatives (1440 vs. 394, $p < .001$) and legal guardians (286 vs. 122, $p = .003$). Further, the total number of one-day temporary releases of patients (64 vs. 3, $p < .001$) and group excursions (103 vs. 10, $p < .001$) decreased in the second study period.

Conclusions: Focusing on social contacts and rehabilitative activities, this study highlights the impact of the current pandemic in forensic psychiatry. While COVID-19-related protective measures may reduce the risk for disease transmission, enforced quarantine and other restrictions of freedom impair the rehabilitation of forensic psychiatric patients. This implies the necessity for guidelines to uphold an appropriate standard of care during future pandemics.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP0152

Psychosocial factors and coping strategies associated with alcohol use during the COVID-19 pandemic

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